(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) It is a fact that Pakistan has continued to be actively involved in training and arming terrorists in its own territory and in POK, and infiltrating them into Jammu and Kashmir to indulge in terrorist and secessionist voilence.

There have been reports from time to time about the presence of such elements in different parts of the State, including forest areas in the Kupwara district. Continuous efforts are being made to obtain information about the movements of the terrorists and based on the same, operations to flush them out are being regularly conducted. Continuous vigil is also being maintained on the border and LOC with a view to containing infiltration of terrorists into the State, and the related security arrangements are being regularly reviewed and strengthened/streamlined as may be found necessary.

Complaints against Petroleum Dealers

2969. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received against the dealers of petroleum products in the country during the last three years, district-wise/category-wise; and

(b) what effective measures are being taken by Government to redress the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) This information is not maintained.

(b) Complaints received against the dealers/distributors of petroleum products are investigated by the officers of the concerned oil company and action is taken against the erring dealers/distributors in accordance with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

In order to curb malpractices/ irregularities, periodic/surprise inspections of retail outlets/SKO dealerships are conducted by the personnel of the oil companies, mobile laboratories and Joint Industry Teams. Enforcement officers of the State Governments also carry out raids on retail outlets/SKO dealerships and possible legal action is taken against the erring dealers.

Economic Backwardness in North-Eastern States

2970. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give preferential treatment to the Northeastern States to tide over their economic backwardness; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The seven North-Eastern (NE) States are categorised as special category States and are given speical dispensation in allocation of central assistance. They are also allowed to divert upto 20% of the Plan assistance to meet their non-Plan gap. Government of India have recently announced new initiatives for the North-Eastern region which inter-alia include the following measures:—

(1) A high level commission has been set up to examine the gaps in important sectors as well as the backlog in Basic Minimum Services. Recommendations of this commission would be considered for formulation of specific programmes and funding arrangements for the development of NE States in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(2) A high level expert committee has been set up to examine all aspects of problem pertaining to educated unemployed and to suggest specific steps to promote their employment.

(3) All central ministries/department will earmark at least 10% of their budget for specific programmes in the NE States.

(4) Full funding will be assured for all on going central projects.

(5) Employment assurance Scheme will be extended to all Blocks in the NE States by 31st March, 1997.

(6) The Border Area Development Programme and Border Road Programme will be extended to some more areas on the Indo- Myanmar border.

(7) A special cell will be set up in Reserve Bank of India to ensure improved credit flow.

(8) A new industrial policy for this region will be announced.

(9) An integrated tourism development Plan for the entire North-east region is being formulated.

(10) An export policy including border trade for NE region will be worked out.

(11) Railway services in the region will be imporved.

(12) Government have also decided to take up a number of important projects for implementation in different North-East States.

Fine on Foreign Ships Fishing in Indian Waters

2971. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fine has been imposed on the foreign ships found fishing in the Indian territoral waters during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the amount collected on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) and (b) Information in being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Supply of Natural Gas Through Pipeline in Gujarat

2972. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for utilisation of natural gas for domestic purposes and its distribution through pipeline in Ahmedabad and Saurashtra- Kutch region of Gujarat;

(b) whether the scheme is in operation in Vadodara and Surat;

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to supply domestic gas to consumers, as in Vadodara and Surat; and

(d) if not, the difficulties being faced by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) As the gas projected to be available is fully allocated, it is not feasible to allocate gas for new projects at present.

Flaws in Panchayati Raj

2973. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 8th November, 1996 about the "Flawed Panchayati Raj"; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been the endeavour of the Government of India to make the Panchayati Raj system more effective and responsive instruments for people's participation in local self-government.

डिग्बोई तेल शोध कारखाने में आग लगना

2974. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में डिग्बोई तेल शोधक कारखाने में आग लगने की बहुत बड़ी घटना घटी है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) आग लगने से कुल कितनी वित्तीय क्षति हुई है;

(ग) आग लगने के क्या कारण पाये गये हैं; और